

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagamura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,292,239, in further view of Gushiken et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,844,744, Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,272,006, and Bovio, U.S. Patent No. 6,202,256.

Although the Examiner has apparently introduced Lee and Bovio in order to respond to the previously filed amendments to claims 1 and 6 that at least two through holes are formed in the projected portion, (Office Action, page 3, lines 5-13; page 4, lines 10-18), the Examiner did not respond to the remarks in the previously filed amendment which are independent of the amendments to the claims and they are, therefore, repeated here.

Independent claims 1-6 provide that the projected portion for fitting the liquid crystal module between the bottom plate and the outside frame is made in the upper and lower edges of the liquid crystal module. In contrast, what the Examiner alleges to be equivalent in Nagamura et al. to the projected portion as claimed in claims 1 and 6, namely, the fastening portions 12a and 12b on the resin frame 3, (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 1, lines 4-5), being a part of the liquid crystal panel 1, are only on the lower edge of the liquid crystal panel unit 1, (column 12, lines 54-58; Fig. 8).

Furthermore, even if Nagamura et al. and Gushiken et al. are combined, they still do not produce the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 6. Although Gushiken et al. discloses a hinge mechanism 70, (see Fig. 2), and hook portions near the upper left and upper right corners of the display frame, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion that a first part of the connection portion, as claimed in claims 1 and 6, is located in a first area, to which a hinge metal member is fixed. In other words, the location of the first part of the connection portion being in the same

area as the area in which the hinge metal member is fixed is nowhere disclosed, taught, or suggested by either of the references alone or in combination.

In addition to the remarks in the previously filed amendment, it should be noted that Gushiken et al. provides a method of connecting a frame to a hinge whereas the present invention aims at achieving a narrow frame. It is apparent that the presence of screws 64 in Fig. 2 of Gushiken et al. stands in the way of achieving as narrow a frame as the present invention can.

Moreover, even the use of Lee and Bovio by the Examiner is respectfully submitted to be incorrect.

The plurality of screws 40 in Fig. 3 of Lee, mentioned by the Examiner, connect a hinge to a display housing of a portable computer. Those screws do not connect a liquid crystal module to a bottom plate and outside frame as the connection portion connects the bottom plate and outside frame, which sandwich the liquid crystal module, as claimed in claims 1 and 6. In Lee, in contrast to claims 1 and 6, there is no separate liquid crystal module, bottom plate and outside frame; there is only a front panel 20 which supports the front of display 18 and a display housing 22 supporting the rear of display 18.

The through holes 54 in Fig. 4 of Bovio, mentioned by the Examiner, are for screws attaching stiffening member 30 to upper hinge piece 32. They are part of a hinge between a base unit housing of a notebook computer and a top cover for that computer. Those holes, therefore, have nothing to do with holes helping to connect a liquid crystal module with a bottom plate and outside frame on the back side and front side of the display face of the liquid crystal module, as claimed in claims 1 and 6.

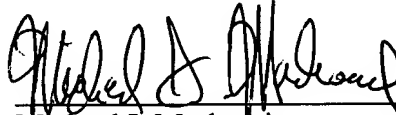
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 6 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael I. Markowitz', is written over a horizontal line.

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